

## EXAMINE IT WELL.

I want every reader of the Kicker to carefully read Robert Hunter's article elsewhere entitled: "Will Socialists Sell Out?" It explains a question so often asked by those who do not understand that Socialism works from the bottom up—and not from the top down, as capitalism does.

Socialism is the exact reverse of capitalism. Under capitalism the interests that own the property of the country, nominate and elect the officials. Hence the officials know their masters and serve them. The masters furnish the campaign fund, the newspapers and the speakers. The masses have nothing to do but to vote and pay taxes.

With Socialism it is different. The rank and file nominate the candidates, furnish the campaign fund, the speakers and, where they are strong enough, the newspapers. The funds are raised through membership dues system, or through voluntary contributions. And the propertyless Socialist has as much to say in the conduct of affairs as has the millionaire Socialist.

Scott county has a full Socialist ticket in the field. At the meeting at Morley, August 6, the county secretary was instructed to send to state headquarters for resignation blanks.

What does this mean?

Why, it means that at our meeting in September every county candidate will be asked to file his resignation with the secretary or chairman of the organization.

And what does that mean? Why, it means that if elected any official who betrays his trust may be recalled (put out of office) by referendum and his resignation accepted and filed with the property authority.

Knowing that the people have a right to revoke his authority at any time, do you believe any official would go wrong? Socialists do not claim to be made of a superior kind of clay, but they know that any person is likely to abuse power if given to him unreserved, and therefore they prefer to hold the strings on those with whom they entrust power.

After he is in office a capitalist official can kick every citizen in the face—except his bosses—and you can't do a thing. What sane business man would employ a man to attend to his business for two or four years without reserving the right to "fire" him if he proved false to his trust.

In Germany and other countries of Europe the Socialists have been represented in the national congress for 25 years. They are in control of many of the larger cities. Why cannot our opponents point out a Socialist who has betrayed his trust? And if he could be found, you know they would tell about it.

In Wisconsin Socialists have been in the state legislature for seven years. They have had representatives in the city council of Milwaukee for 12 years and are now in control of the entire city. Why is it that the people who get a little taste of Socialism cry for more until they get the whole thing—as in Milwaukee?

Do you believe that a city of 400,000 inhabitants would throw off capitalism and substitute Socialism if the latter is again religion, again morality, again the home, and stood for dividin' up?

In one sense our opponents are right when they charge these things against us. Socialism will destroy the religion that worships the almighty dollar; it will destroy the morality that produces the traffic in young girls; it will destroy the huts and shacks that the workers now call "home"; and the producers of wealth will no longer divide up with the non-producers—just for the sake of having an idle, useless, aristocratic class.

## IS THIS A REPUBLIC?

From the Appeal to Reason. Seven of the United States have, through their legislatures, enacted a two-cent railroad fare law—and these have been knocked out by federal judges.

Is this a republic? The people elect legislators and these enact laws, and these laws are annulled by federal judges placed on the bench by the corporations that are robbing the people.

The poor fools who really believe in a republic and that the people here are sovereign and rule themselves are in a pitiable state, the very mental state which makes it possible for a Taft to be elected president and despotism to palm itself off as a republic.

All over this country the people demand a two-cent railroad fare

law (and even that is too high) but the federal judges coolly wipe the law establishing such a fare from the books and ask the people what they are going to do about it.

Well, we Socialists have made up our minds what we are going to do and that is to wipe out the capitalist system and strip these judicial hirelings of their despotic power. We the people propose to rule ourselves and if you are with us on that proposition you are a Socialist and ought to join our movement.

It is worthy of notice and reflection that the seven states which have enacted the two-cent fare law and other progressive measures have only done so since Socialist agitation has stirred up the American people. This agitation is at the bottom of social insurgency and at the bottom of everything else in our industrial and political life that is awakening the people from their indifference and stirring them to action.

## WHY?

A series of questions have just been received in a letter from one of the most faithful workers for Socialism among the Daily Socialist's correspondents. He says they were asked of him by a man who has always been one of the staunch defenders of the Socialist party. Because there may be some outside the party who are seeking the same questions, as well as perhaps a few more inside, they deserve reply. His first question is:

What is the object in organizing Socialist locals or branches in townships, wards and precincts?

This is the first striking point of difference in organization between the Socialist party and other political parties. Other parties have OFFICIALS in these subdivisions who issue orders to the rank and file before each election and who distribute funds for such work as is to be done. The Socialist party maintains organizations of the rank and file throughout the year that gives orders to such servants as may be hired to do the work that the membership itself cannot do. The membership contributes the funds from its own resources to meet expenses and carry on the work of education, as well as agitation. It thereby maintains a democratically managed organization instead of an autocratic one. The reason for this is that the Socialists wish to control their party machinery instead of being controlled by it.

Second. Why is each applicant for membership required to recognize the class struggle and sever his connection with all other political parties?

People who are to work for a common cause must agree upon their object. The fact that the class struggle is the simplest and most fundamental thing about Socialism, and those who do not recognize its existence could hardly be expected to make good workers for Socialism. Experience has shown that all other political parties have different objects in view and different interests to defend from those championed by the Socialist party. Unless a person severs all connection with other parties he will be seeking to move in opposite directions at the same time, and will remain a block in the road of progress.

Third. Are there not many members of the Socialist party in favor of seeking for more "immediate results" by co-operation with other parties?

There are. It is only an indication that the rapid growth of the party has brought many members who do not yet understand the truths of Socialism. As a matter of information, it may be said that not one of the thousands of letters that have been received since the establishment of the Daily Socialist on matters of tactics has ever suggested such a thing. Furthermore, co-operation with a different object will not secure "immediate results"—at least not of a desirable character.

Fourth. What would be the probable effect on the Socialist party of permitting personal freedom on such matters?

"Personal freedom" to work for candidates and parties that are financed and conducted in the interests of the exploiter of labor means giving aid and comfort to the enemy. The class struggle is a fact, not a theory, and to attempt to ignore it is foolishness. The capitalists never ignore it. They seek to disguise and cover it up that workers may not see it, and, remaining blind, remain slaves.

Experience in many countries for many years and under the most diverse conditions has tested these tactics and proven them sound. Only an emergency such as does not occur once in a generation and in one out of ten countries would justify a departure from these tactics. No such emergency appears to be in sight in this country.

It has been by following the principles of a democratically financed and controlled organization that the Socialist movement has become a power throughout the world.—Chicago Daily Socialist.

Push the Kicker. Enough of it means a Socialist victory here.

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## STICK TO THE PARTY.

The misguided friends of Mr. Michael, who recently sought the Democratic nomination in this district, are already making threats as to what they are going to do to Joe Russell in November. And yet these fellows claim to be Democrats and asked Democrats to give their man the congressional nomination! That is the brand of party fealty that the Citizen-Democrat cannot understand. If they are true blue Democrats they will "stand up to the trough" and support Mr. Russell.—Poplar Bluff Citizen.

The trouble is that the voters have no room at the "trough". The space is all taken up by Joe Russell and the politicians. All the voters have to do is to vote and fill the "trough". The politicians will attend to the rest.

The above item was reprinted by Mr. Russell's organ at Charleston—the Enterprise. It is the old story of "stick to the party". Mr. Michael was a very undesirable Democrat because he had not done this.

But how about Dave Francis? The Russell organ of Mississippi Co. is shouting for Dave all right and Dave votes the Republican ticket and contributes to the Republican campaign fund whenever he feels like it. And he feels like it every time the Democrats nominate a DEMOCRAT.

Why is irregularity in Mr. Michael such a sin, and yet such a virtue in Mr. Francis?

The Kicker will not be foolish enough to expect any reply. Party organs are not expected to explain the drive they hand out to their dupes.

## COMING AROUND JUST RIGHT.

Already rumors are heard that the near-Socialists who allowed themselves to be persuaded into the recent primary by the Democrats will not be allowed to vote in November unless they vote the Democratic ticket.

"They can't do that," you may say. But if you go to the polls, and they refuse to let you vote, what are you going to do about it? They are "the law"—no matter what the book says. And if they say you can't vote unless you support the ticket you helped to nominate, all you can do is to drag yourself off.

And you will be getting just what you deserve. A Socialist has no business helping old party politicians nominate their "good men". In fact he violates a fundamental principle when he does so.

But I hear no rumor that many Republicans who were persuaded into the primary will be made to toe the mark in the same way. That's different.

## ALL FOR PROFIT.

From the Daily Socialist. Cairo, Ill., has added another method of killing people to that of race riots.

William Flight, a railroad hand, was poisoned last Saturday and died in a few hours.

Dr. Walsh, of the board of health, found that the large packing houses take meat that begins to show signs of spoiling and trim off the outside and sell the rest. This meat would not pass the United States inspectors for shipment, but the packers say they cannot afford to lose it, so they sell it to Cairo dealers.

In Cairo, as in Chicago and elsewhere, the business men would rather poison the people than to throw away a few pounds of spoiled meat.

This is the nature of private business, and you cannot change the nature of the profit system. In order to concentrate all business, Dr. Walsh declares that the small dealers who cannot handle meat that is partly spoiled in the big packing houses must quit and let those who have better facilities take care of this rotten meat.

He certainly offers a great remedy. If this is not a quick article then we give it up.

Dr. Walsh should tell them to throw away all poisoned meat and not merely change from small dealers to big ones in disposing of it.

Under Socialism the people would own the packing plants, meat markets and would naturally rather throw away a few pounds of meat than their own lives.

Capitalism and rotten meat are two of a kind, and the people are being poisoned and killed equally by both.

VOTE THEM OUT.

THE FIRST GARDEN. "And how are the tomatoes coming on?" asked Mr. Youngblood of his little wife.

"Well, dear," she began nervously, "I'm rather afraid we shall have to buy them after all."

Mr. Youngblood frowned. "But, my dear Maria," he expostulated, "I distinctly understood from you a couple of months ago that you had planted a whole row!"

"That's quite right, dear," explained Maria, "but I've just remembered that I forgot to open the cans."

## WHAT SAY YOU, GENTLEMEN?

Now that the primary is over, and all the different candidates of the different political parties in Scott county are in the field, I, the Socialist candidate for representative of Scott county hereby, friendly and courteously, challenge either or both of my opponents to a joint discussion of the question, "Socialism vs. Capitalism."

Said discussion to be publicly and orally conducted at such time and place as may suit the convenience of my opponents. This challenge is not made for the purpose of eliciting controversy, but for the benefit of the voters, who are entitled to hear both sides of this question that they may intelligently inform themselves of the economic principles for which each candidate stands.

What say you, gentlemen. Please inform me of your intentions regarding the matter thru the Kicker. Yours for a square deal, C. M. WEAVER.

## ANOTHER CHALLENGE.

The campaign is now on. The candidates of all political parties, of course, claim to be the "friends of the people" and assert that their particular party stands for the interests of the masses. We Socialists maintain that the Socialist party is the ONLY party that stands for and defends the rights of the workers—the ones who are carrying the heavy end of the log—and if either or both of my opponents for the office of prosecuting attorney of Scott county will meet me in friendly debate to discuss "The Democratic or Republican Party vs. Socialism," I think I can show the people which "shell" the little rubber ball is under.

My opponents may suggest time and place for debate.

## A. Q. MILLER.

## SLAVERY.

By Elsie M. Webb, Crowder, Mo.

The question of arises now: "What constitutes a slave?"

'Tis one deprived of freedom. That the good Lord to him gave We find the Ethiopian was

A slave in days of yore, Thank God! he gained his liberty In eighteen sixty-four.

But let us go to history And learn that freedom's cost. Brother arose against brother, And many lives were lost.

The waters of rivers ran red. Blood-stains were on the snow. While soldiers bravely stood To battle 'gainst the foe.

We find that when the soldiers Came marching home at last, Good old Abraham Lincoln Set a day for prayer and fast.

To thank the Lord for goodness And care thru a siege so sour For loosing the chains of bondage And upsetting slavery's power.

But we find that the Ethiopian Has not alone in bondage been. For slavery is existing today.

'Mong the laboring class of men White men, women and children Are slaves of some rich master. Who never tires of growling Because they work no faster.

He thinks that a dollar a day Is all that a man ought to get. And if there comes a rainy spell, They ought to never fret.

For, altho their wages is stopped And the family is pale and thin The crops are growing nicely He can sit around and grin.

And when the mill or factory Gives a lay-off or shut down, Men can get no work elsewhere.

Tho they go from town to town They may go to their employer And ask for shelter and bread. "No work, no pay," he answers. All humanity is dead.

The poor, old Ethiopian Most surely had a snap. He had no use for money And didn't care a rap.

He did not work for wages. As does the poor white slave. While for his work the master Board and clothing to him gave.

There is a political party That favors the freedom of all. It is growing by leaps and bounds And foretells plutocracy's fall.

We'll set a day of prayer and fast To welcome the day—the hour When the bonfires leap and the joy-bells peal, announcing SOCIALISM has gained power!

BRING ON ANOTHER HOSS.

A press dispatch from Helena Ark., says that Thos. F. Rucker was arrested in Arizona on a charge of embezzling \$400 from the Helena World where he was employed before he came to Benton to take charge of the Court House Organ here. He will be taken back to Arkansas on the Governor's requisition.

With both hands in the people's treasury the Court House Organ seems to have rough sledding. Mr. Rucker is the third manipulator of the crank since it started two years ago. He came here early in the spring, remained a while, and then skipped—leaving his wife in charge. Many rumors were set afloat concerning the separation.

Mr. Rucker is a good Democrat of the Southern brand. He came here to tell the people how to run public affairs. He is not a Socialist, but an ex-preacher, and was very attentive to his "religious duties" while here. Since his departure it is to be hoped that he held revival meetings while not engaged in dodging officers.

It is a pity, however, that the party he should leave the services of so valuable a member—and the church such an active "worker".

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## WILL SOCIALISTS SELL OUT?

By Robert Hunter. It is said now and then. "When you Socialists get into power you will be just as corrupt as those now in power."

Socialists make no claim to being superior human beings. As a fact, they are just as liable to go wrong as other human beings. But have you noticed the Socialists elected to public office in this country and abroad do not go wrong?

And can you imagine why? The Socialists have great power in some places. They might get a very handsome sum for their votes. And the Socialist papers might be "self-supporting" if they could be induced to accept bribes.

Yet strange to say, Socialist legislators do not go wrong and Socialist papers do not sell out.

That is a fact. And can you imagine why?

In the first place they cannot. The papers, the legislators, the whole party machinery is OWNED by rank and file.

If a trust magnate bought a Socialist he would get burned. He would not be able to buy the whole Tammany outfit—bureaucrats, captains, ward heelers, and even the sheep-like voters.

But, while a Socialist leader might be bought, he cannot deliver the Socialist organization—because HE does not OWN the organization.

In fact, the organization owns him. He is a servant of the organization, elected by the rank and file, and often paid for his work. The membership can dispense with his services whenever they so desire. If he is elected to a public position they can at any moment RECALL him from that position. If he votes wrong they can censure him, and if they choose "fire" him.

He must give an account of himself frequently. The committee of the party and the membership of the party get from him reports weekly of exactly what he is doing. He can take no step not approved by the organization, and whenever any question of principle arises it must be decided by a general vote of the whole organization.

Mr. Hearst owns the Independence, and he can dispose of it at his own price. But Mr. Debs does not own the Socialist party, and he can no more sell it than a wage worker in a steel mill can sell the property of the Steel Trust.

And the same is true as regards the newspapers. No individual owns the official Socialist newspapers. They belong to the party. Their editors, their managers, and their reporters, are hired by the party and paid for by the party. Nobody can sell the Socialist papers except the party itself.

## WHEN DIAZ DIES.

From the Appeal to Reason. The Appeal is in receipt of a communication full of rejoicing over the assumption that tyranny will soon be at an end in Mexico because, in the nature of things, Diaz cannot live many years longer.

This is where the correspondence errs. The death of the tyrant will not end the tyranny. The old cry used when a king dies in Europe, still holds: "The king is dead—long live the king." It is not the individual tyrant that counts, but the system of tyranny.

After the death of Diaz tyranny will remain, because of the fact that the tyrant is not individual but a system. When Rogers of Annapolis and Copper passed away his death caused not a ripple and Annapolis remains the same power as before.

Diaz may die, and will, but if there is not found another tyrant to hold Mexico for exploitation, then the armies of the United States will forcibly seize on that unhappy land, and Uncle Sam will "maintain order" while the plagues of America rob the people. The system of robbery must and will have its pound of flesh.

## ONE ON THE BARRISTER.

It happened in a little town near the center of the state. A farmer had one of his neighbors arrested for stealing ducks, and the leading lawyer of the town was employed by the accused to endeavor to convince the court that such was the case. The plaintiff was positive that his neighbor was guilty, because he had seen the ducks in the defendant's yard.

"How do you know they were your ducks?" asked the lawyer. "Oh, I should know my own ducks anywhere!" replied the farmer; and he gave a description of their various peculiarities whereby he could readily distinguish them from others.

"Why," said the lawyer, "those ducks can't be of such rare breed. I have some just like them in my own yard."

"That's not at all unlikely," replied the farmer, "for they are not the only ducks I have had stolen lately."—Cosmopolitan Magazine.

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## TIME FOR ACTION.

From St. Louis Labor. The Missouri primary elections are over.

The great campaign is on. The Democratic and Republican parties have nominated their capitalist tickets, as usually.

The candidates are pledged to platforms expressing the capitalist class interests.

Once more every effort will be made to divide the forces of the working class between the two capitalist parties.

Both old parties will attempt to convince you of their love for the working class.

Unfortunately for the cause of Labor millions of wage workers will believe it. They will be hypnotized and chloroformed by the paid political hirelings of Capitalism.

In the labor unions in factories and workshops the political agents of the capitalist class will be kept busy from now till November 7.

But no matter which of the two capitalist parties win in November, the working class will lose.

And the working class will pay the capitalist campaign bills, too. Yes, they will pay their masters' campaign bills and millions of dollars in addition, for the privilege of being fooled, hoodwinked, deceived, chloroformed, cheated and robbed by the capitalist class and their political machines.

The time has come when the working class must attend to their own political affairs thru their own political organization.

The time has come when the working class must build their own political movement based on their own platform expressive of the working class interests.

The political battle is on. Every working man, every thinking man and woman in sympathy with the cause of Labor is confronted by the question:

To which party must I belong? With which party must I line up in order to protect and defend the working class interests?

There can be but one answer: As a workman, my proper place is neither in the Democratic nor in the Republican parties.

There is but one political party in the field composed of working men and women, but one party with a working class platform and program, but one party that makes a clear-cut fight against the capitalist class.

## THE ENEMY WAS SUNK.

From the Appeal to Reason. A few days ago a gun in a shore battery at Fortress Monroe, Virginia, exploded, killing instantly eleven men and wounding a number of others. This occurred while the battery was engaged in firing upon an imaginary hostile fleet. We quote from the press dispatch as follows:

Fortress Monroe, Va., July 22.—Although death has silenced one gun and eleven men were killed or fatally injured by the terrible explosion in the DeBussy shore battery yesterday during the target firing upon the imaginary fleet, which was passing up Hampton Roads to attack Washington, the battle continued until the enemy was sunk. The practice, which was the most extensive ever attempted, was completed with flattering success to the coast artillery corps.

These deaths are due to the idiotic and criminal practice of imitating warfare in preparation for the real thing when the capitalists need a killing to further their interests.

In this instance the imaginary enemy was vanquished and the imaginary fleet was sunk, but the burial of eleven young men, cut down in their prime, was not imaginary. That was real. Daily the army and the navy the murder tools of the capitalists, keep in practice at the murder game to be prepared for it when the capitalists give the order. Millions of dollars are blown into the air and otherwise wantonly wasted in this insane and brutal pastime. But it has to be, for such is capitalism.

There is something of the irony of fate in the kicking back and explosion of these shore guns, and something perhaps prophetic of what the working class will do one of these days when it gets tired of being used to commit wholesale murder when it suits the whims of the capitalists.

## THE "HANDY-ANDYS."

From the Appeal to Reason. Any attempt made by the nation, the state or municipality to protect the citizens from overcharge by the corporations is instantly countered by the federal judiciary on the ground that the rights of property, guaranteed under the 14th amendment of the constitution of the United States, have been invaded. It seems never to have occurred to the judges that this same constitutional amendment extends to the rights of the people. But then the people are hopelessly divided and do not know what they want. On the other hand the corporations are perfectly organized and know exactly what they want and how to get it. It would be interesting to have some learned judge define definitely the line that separates corporate interests from public welfare.

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## FAKE AND REAL ISSUES.

From the Daily Socialist. The Socialist party is the only party that has anything to say on any question of any real importance to the American people.

The tariff question isn't vital. We have had all kinds of tariffs administered in all ways without a particle of change in the essential condition of the vast majority of Americans.

The currency question isn't vital. We have had all kinds of money and all kinds of theories about it and the majority of Americans have gone on in exactly the same way all the time.

Advocacy of a big navy isn't vital. No matter how big a navy we build with the wealth created by labor the creators of that wealth will be no better off. We have now forty times as much of a navy as we had in 1890 and the condition of the majority of the people has grown no better, but ever worse.

Platitudes about party records are not vital. We have had Republican administrations, and Democratic administrations, and through them all the sums have grown, poverty has increased, insanity and suicides have multiplied, and the average condition of the worker has declined.

The Panama Canal is not vital. When it has been completed and the creators of wealth have paid the monstrous bill it will not improve the condition of one of them. They will receive no more of the wealth they created; they will have no more of the earth's abundance; they will live in no better houses, have no more to eat, have no more time for culture, leisure and enjoyment, have no more to show for their toil than they had before. Their children will have no better opportunities in life; their wives will have no less of drudgery and dreariness; life will mean no more to any one of them.

To promise railroad regulation is not vital. For twenty years this government has been pottering with the railroad problem and has done nothing about it not ridiculous and futile. No amount of railroad regulation or rate fixing, or commerce courts, or tinkering and daddering about the railroad laws will affect the essential condition of the 85 per cent of the American people that in the midst of unequal abundance are admitted to be either poor or very poor.

None of the propositions of the other parties is vital. But this is vital—that the sums should cease to spread, that the majority of people should cease to be oppressed by poverty and insufficiency; that the physical decline of our people should no longer be wrought by overcrowding and unsanitary conditions; that happiness should be a common possession and not the exclusive heritage of a few; that children should cease to be murdered in the factories and women's souls cease to be trampled upon in the streets.

You will find these things treated in the proposals of the Socialist party and of none other. The Socialist party alone announces a cure for the vital ailment and a position on the vital issues.

If you are not a Socialist review carefully these statements and see if you can find a flaw in them.

Then ask yourself what position you are going to take about the only issue that is of the least importance to you and the country.

HOW COULD HE DO IT? "Dear me," gasped Mr. Hollonutt, "here's a terrible item in the paper. My word, how the poor man must have suffered!"

"Well, what is it?" asked the husband.

"Why, one of these unfortunate marathon runners over in New York swallowed a sponge."

"What? Let me see." After carefully reading the paragraph, Mr. Hollonutt flung the paper down. "There never was a woman yet who could grasp a simple fact in print. This doesn't say the fellow swallowed a sponge."

"I know it doesn't in those exact words," asserted his wife, "but, then, how on earth could the poor man throw up the sponge if he didn't swallow it?"

WHAT HE'D BE.

Pat—"What's yer politics, Mike?"

Mike—"Sure, Pat, but I'm a Republican."

Pat—"An' what would yer be if yer weren't a Republican?"